

V. REMARKS

In the final Office Action dated July 10, 2007, claims 1-8 (presumptively claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8 because claims 2, 4 and 6 have been canceled) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hermann (U.S. Patent No. 3,839,209) in view of United Lab Equipment, Inc. and Wikipedia. Also, claims 9 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hermann in view of United Lab Equipment, Inc., Wikipedia and Shimotomai (U.S. Patent No. 5,868,555).

The Advisory Action points out that the phrase in claim 1 that the copper-based alloy contains no lead or bismuth and the aluminum-based alloy contains no lead or bismuth is not positively recited in the specification. This phrase is now canceled to obviate this issue. Withdrawal of this issue is respectfully requested.

The final Office Action states that Hermann discloses a sliding layer composition comprising an epoxy resin, mixtures of bismuth powder and metal (lead) powder, and a solid lubricant, and the metal powder is further disclosed as an alloy comprising copper, which therefore overlaps a copper based alloy (claim 7, column 11). Claim 7 of Hermann recites Pb-Sn-Sb-Cu, Pb-Sn-Cu-Cd and Pb-Sn-Sb-Cu-Ni as copper based alloys.

In view of this, "copper-tin based alloy" is changed to "copper-tin alloy" in claim 1 as amended above to specify the present invention more distinctly from Hermann.

It is respectfully submitted that "copper-tin alloy" is supported by the specification, Table 3 (Examples 1-3).

As previously argued, Hermann is clearly different from the present invention in the constitution and advantage.

The composition of Hermann comprises an epoxy resin containing bismuth or bismuth alloy powder (cf. claim 1) and further contains a solid lubricant (cf. claim 8).

In the present invention, the sliding layer contains bismuth powder or bismuth alloy powder, metal powder and solid lubricant, and the metal powder contains at least one of the specific copper-based alloy and aluminum-based alloy (i.e., copper-tin alloy, copper-zinc based alloy, copper-aluminum based alloy, aluminum-tin based alloy and aluminum-silicon based alloy).

By use of the specific copper-based alloy or aluminum-based alloy, there can be attained the advantage of the present invention, that is, the alloy powders contribute to the increase in thermal conductivity because they give off heat on the sliding surface, and since oil film is formed easily on the sliding surface when the sliding member is used under a lubricated condition, the alloy powders can improve the anti-seizure property from this viewpoint as well (see the specification, page 5, lines 2-6).

Hermann does not disclose or suggest the constitution or the advantage of the present invention. Therefore, the present invention is patentable over the prior art references and the outstanding rejection should be withdrawn.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

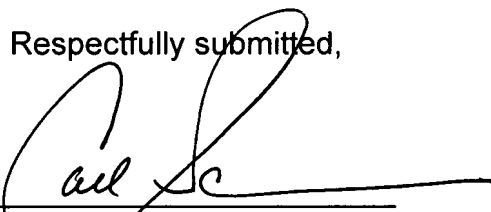
Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the

Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 5, 2007

By:


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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (one month)
 Request for Continued Examination

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